

IN THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13.

Please amend claim 2 and claim 11.

1. Canceled

2. (currently amended) [The magnetic write head recited in claim 1,] A magnetic write head, comprising:

an optical element for providing a thermal gradient in a magnetic recording media, said optical element having an emitting surface; wherein said optical element is a very small aperture laser (VSAL)[.]; and,

a magnetic element for providing a magnetic field gradient in the magnetic recording media, said magnetic element located on said emitting surface.

3. Original.

4. Canceled.

5. Canceled.

6. Original

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. Original.

10. Canceled.

11. (currently amended) [The disk drive system recited in claim 10,] A disk drive system, comprising:

a magnetic recording disk;

a magnetic read/write head for magnetically recording data on the magnetic recording disk, said magnetic read/write head comprising:

a magnetic write head, including:

an optical element for providing a thermal gradient in a magnetic recording media, said optical element having an emitting surface and a side surface wherein said optical element is a very small aperture laser (VSAL)[.]; and

a magnetic element for providing a magnetic field gradient in the magnetic recording media, said magnetic element located on said emitting surface;

a magnetic read head adjacent to said side surface, said read head including a magnetoresistive sensor;

an actuator for moving said read/write head across the magnetic disk so that the read/write head may access different regions of the magnetic disk; and

a recording channel coupled electrically to the write head for magnetically recording data on the magnetic recording disk and to the magnetoresistive sensor of the read head for detecting changes in the resistance of the magnetoresistive sensor in response to magnetic fields from the magnetically recorded data.

12. Original.

13. Canceled.

14. Original.

15. Original.

16. Original.

17. Original.

18. Original.

19. Original.

20. Original.